

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CUPID RETURNS TO TURKEY

AN ARTICLE IN THE NEW YORK TIMES OF APRIL 12, ENTITLED
"A 2,000-YEAR-OLD CUPID STOLEN FROM TURKS IS RETURNED BY
U.S." BY ERIC PACE, IS A STORY WITH A HAPPY ENDING. THERE
IS A PHOTOGRAPH ACCOMPANYING THE ARTICLE OF TURKISH UN
DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE ALTEMUR KILIC WHO ON BEHALF OF THE
TURKISH GOVERNMENT RECEIVED THE STATUE OF CUPID FROM
THE US CUSTOMS. BEGIN TEXT. A 2,000 YEAR OLD CUPID,
STOLEN IN TURKEY IN 1976, WAS HANDED OVER TO TURKEY'S
UNITED NATIONS MISSION YESTERDAY BY THE UNITED STATES
CUSTOMS SERVICE, WHICH HAD RETRIEVED IT FROM A NEW YORK
ART DEALER.

"THIS IS A VERY HAPPY OCCASION" SAID THE MISSION'S DEPUTY
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CHIEF, ALTEMUR KILIC.

MR. KILIC DISCLOSED THAT FIVE OTHER PIECES OF CARVED MARBLE,
STOLEN WITH THE CUPID FROM A STOREROOM IN SOUTHWESTERN
TURKEY, HAD BEEN VOLUNTARILY RETURNED BY THEIR POSSESSORS
HERE AFTER A SCHOLARLY MAGAZINE, THE JOURNAL OF FIELD
ARCHEOLOGY, PUBLISHED A REPORT OF THE THEFT LAST YEAR.

A KEY ROLE WAS PLAYED BY KENAN T. ERIM, PROFESSOR OF CLASSICS AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, THE PROFESSOR A TURKISH CITIZEN, HEADS THE EXCAVATION OF THE ANCIENT CITY OF APHRODISIAS, 235 MILES SOUTH OF ISTANBUL.

'ALL SORTS OF DIRTY FINGERS'

"I'M SURE THERE WERE ALL SORTS OF DIRTY FINGERS THAT WERE INVOLVED IN THE WHOLE EPISODE," PROFESSOR ERIM SAID AT A NEWS CONFERENCE AT THE TURKISH MISSION'S HEADQUARTERS, 821 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, AFTER THE TWO-FOOT CUPID WAS GIVEN TO MR. KILIC AND LOCKED AWAY IN THE MISSION VAULT WITH THE FIVE OTHER PIECES. HE SAID THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE STOLEN WORKS WAS DOLS 50,000.

THE PROFESSOR SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE MARBLES HAD ALMOST CERTAINLY BEEN STOLEN BY TURKS. THEN, HE SAID, THEY WERE PROBABLY TAKEN TO THE PORT OF IZMIR ON THE AEGEAN.

FROM TURKEY THE CUPID IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN SENT ON TO MUNICH, WHERE IT WAS SOLD AND IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES.

WHEN THE CUPID WAS SHOWN AT AN EXHIBITION HERE, A CONNOISSEUR RECOGNIZED IT AND INFORMED THE PROFESSOR. HE IN TURN UNCLASSIFIED

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TIPPED OFF THE CUSTOMS SERVICE, WHICH DISPATCHED AN AGENT CHARLES S. KOCZKA OF THE BRONX, TO THE EAST SIDE ART DEALER WHO HAD BOUGHT IT.

ON SALE FOR DOLS 6,000

MR. KOCZKA CALLED ON THE DEALER, WHO HAD THE CUPID ON SALE FOR DOLS 6,000.

"DO YOU HAVE A HEART CONDITION?" MR. KOCZA ASKED. "NO," THE DEALER REPLIED. "DID YOUR FATHER HAVE A HEART CONDITION?" "NO". "WELL," MR. KOCZA SAID, "YOU ARE IN POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY."

A PAUSE FOLLOWED, MR. KOCZA SAID AT THE NEWS CONFERENCE AND MR. KOCZA PRESENTED THE DEALER WITH THE COPY OF THE FEDERAL LAW ON POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY, WHICH CARRIES A FIVE-YEAR JAIL SENTENCE.

THE DEALER THEN VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED THE CUPID WITHOUT COMPENSATION, SAYING HE HAD NOT KNOWN IT WAS STOLEN, AND THE CUSTOMS SERVICE AGREED NOT TO DISCLOSE HIS NAME OR

PROSECUTE HIM. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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